May A DEBATE IN THE COUNCIL CONCERNING PEACE

There is great debate in the Council concerning the waste of treasure in these last seven years' wars, and the charge for Ireland being .£400,000 *per annum,* and the treasure and men of England being wasted beyond endurance , for pots and pewter are selling amongst the poor for this present subsidy The Lords are, it seems, all agreed that it is the Irish wars which have impoverished England, and not the wars of Spain or the Low Countries They agree also that the Low Countries will never become subjects to Spain or France or any other but will maintain a continual war , nor may we with safety suffer Spain or the Archduke to be absolute in the Low Countries

But they are disagreed touching peace to be moved by us with Spain The Lord Treasurer saith that the war in the Low Countries is a lingering war to waste us and them, and that it is fittest to have peace with Spain before we be far spent , for the Spanish King hath a spring that yieldeth continual supply, his Indies , whilst we are like a standing water which war will exhaust and male dry The Lord Admiral, Mr Controller and Mr Secretary think otherwise, that peace first moved by us were to her Majesty's dishonour, yet they would be content a treaty might be moved by them, for some good might arise by gaming time

May A SAYING OF SIR JOHN FORTESCITE

Sir John Fortescue, speaking with a dear friend of the weakness of the time, said that his comfort was that he was as old and weak as the time itself, being born HI the same year as the Queen, but yet he would advise his son to take a right course when the hour came, without taking knowledge in the

meantime of any person or pretension , for he had found by experience that they that met Queen Mary at London were as well accepted, standing free from former combination, as they that went to Framhngham, and that they that came into the vineyard *hora undecima* had *denanum* as well as they that had sweat before all their fellows. The practice of opponents, as he thought, would cause the labouis of all men to be holden and accounted meritorious that had so much discretion as in the meantime to be silent and indifferent